



NEWS BULLETIN

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT of CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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For Your Information



OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET is a police district-wide program that will enable residents to drop off unwanted, unused, or expired medications at a safe and secure location **24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

"Health and law enforcement professionals know that prescription opiate abuse is leading our young ones down the path to heroin use," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy. "Operation Medicine Cabinet" is designed to attack this epidemic at its earliest stage by reducing the risk that meds are unwittingly available to children and others who could use them in an unintended manner."

Through 'Operation Medicine Cabinet,' secure receptacles that resemble mailboxes are being placed inside each of Suffolk's seven police precincts. The initiative allows residents to use the receptacles *anonymously*, and its long-term objectives are to decrease cases of accidental ingestion of unknown or expired prescription drugs and to close the gateway to heroin abuse by reducing the availability of prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Percocet and Vicodin.

In addition, Operation Medicine Cabinet will also safeguard our environment. Suffolk Commissioner of Environment & Energy Carrie Meek-Gallagher said, *"This program is an innovative example of how Suffolk County is working hard to protect our drinking water and surface waters from contamination threats posed by the improper disposal of items in our medicine cabinet, and a rare opportunity for law enforcement and the environmental community to work together for the common good. Both local and nationwide studies have found evidence of medications, pharmaceuticals and personal care products in our waterways, as well as our groundwater, with potentially serious impacts to ecological and human health."*

According to the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, numerous municipalities have offered one-time-only drop-off days, but 'Operation Medicine Cabinet' will make the Suffolk County Police Department the *first* department statewide to offer a permanent, 24/7 drop-off facility.

Drop – off locations include:

- **First Precinct, 555 Route 109, West Babylon**
- **Second Precinct, 1071 Park Avenue, Huntington**
- **Third Precinct, 1630 Fifth Avenue, Bay Shore**
- **Fourth Precinct, 727 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge**
- **Fifth Precinct, 125 Waverly Avenue, Patchogue**
- **Sixth Precinct, 400 Route 25, Selden**
- **Seventh Precinct, 1491 William Floyd Parkway, Shirley**